



## "BRIGHT" WARNING SIGNS

The use of bright yellow-green fluorescent warning signs is permissible for certain signs on public roads in Maine. Up to this time, national standards, as described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), only allowed the use of yellow as the background color for permanent warning signs such as curve signs, pedestrian signs, school zone signs, etc.

The 2003 MUTCD includes the optional use of these fluorescent signs for pedestrian, bicycle, and school applications. Specifically, the allowable signs include the following:

- ✧ Pedestrian Warning (W11-2)
- ✧ Bicycle Warning (W11-1)
- ✧ School Advance Warning Sign (S1-1)
- ✧ "School" Plaque (S4-3)
- ✧ School Bus Stop Ahead (S3-1)
- ✧ Playground Warning (W15-1)
- ✧ In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs (R1-6)

No other applications are allowed for the use of this very bright color. The intent of this unique color is to increase the driving public's awareness of crosswalks, schools, and bicycle areas. If the color was allowed for other "regular" warning applications, the color would grow "old" very fast and would not command as much attention. Limiting this color to these particular signs will hopefully make them more noticeable to the driving public.

The initial cost of purchasing one or more of these signs is more than a conventional engineering grade sheeting. A town which decides to erect some of these bright signs at certain areas in town will pay a higher initial price for the fluorescence. The payoff is a sign which has been shown to be more visible and which may result in better motorist recognition, thus reducing vehicular-pedestrian conflicts.

It's worth trying some of these signs if your town has a typical pedestrian/vehicle conflict on some of its roads. This color has been received positively as an accepted and innovative tool to provide for increased pedestrian safety.